



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis management in food, animals and plants
Unit G.4 Official controls

Minutes
Working Group
"Official Controls Regulation (EU 2017/625)"

Tuesday 20 September 2022, **10H00 – 12H00**
Meeting in Centre Borschette, Brussels, and Skype call

WORKING GROUP

1	10:00 –10:30	Article 47: Implementation of official controls on organics, including fees for border checks	The Commission informed Member States of the adoption of the related Commission Notice published in the OJEU , presented data extracted from TRACES showing issues in the implementation of the COI-CHED link, and invited Member States to provide explanations. Two Member States mentioned generally issues in the workflow for the official controls with more detailed explanations to be sent in writing. One Member State referred to difficulties and asked for an adaptation of the TRACES system, an issue the Commission indicated is under the remit of the IMSOC – Operations Management Board. The Commission indicated it would consider preparing a short manual for operators and assessing the use of CN Codes to facilitate implementation in TRACES.
2	10:30– 11:00	Guidance on several provisions of the OCR – update and exchange of views on new elements	The Commission: 1. informed that the inter-service consultation for a first edition of a guidance note on the OCR is completed and that the document is being prepared for adoption by the College of Commissioners; 2. presented new parts of the draft guidance document regarding accreditation (“sleeping scope” accreditation, DNA/RNA sequencing), subcontracting on behalf of official laboratories and official certification; 3. invited Member States to provide their practices on the procedure they follow on

			<p>imports regarding second expert opinion– Art. 69 (3);</p> <p>4. presented new information on the standards used for the accreditation of delegated bodies under the provisions of Art. 29 (b) (iv) in relation to the requirements of sectoral legislation;</p> <p>5. presented the way that the roles of “official veterinarian” and “official auxiliary” will be discussed in the new part of the guidance.</p>
3	11:00–11:10	Article 70: application of Articles 66, 67 and 68 - update	The Commission informed that the draft act under Article 70 of the OCR is under internal consultation.
4	11:10–11:20	Article 37: update on EU survey	The Commission presented the EU survey and the resulting database of designated official laboratories and gave practical guidance to Member States on its use.
5	11:20 – 12:00	Digitalisation of the food chain – update and exchange of views	<p>The Commission presented results stemming from the questionnaire in relation to future projects on digitalisation of the food chain (development of TRACES, RASFF, electronic certification etc.).</p> <p>Member States were asked to further specify details for priority areas and provide them to the Commission.</p>